

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tool assembly comprising:

an anvil and a cartridge assembly, the cartridge assembly having a plurality of fasteners and being movable in relation to the anvil between a spaced position and an approximated position, the cartridge assembly and anvil defining a tissue gap in the approximated position;

a clamp member being movable from a retracted position to an advanced position to move the cartridge assembly in relation to the anvil from the spaced position to the approximated position; and

a dynamic clamping member movably positioned in relation to the anvil and the cartridge assembly, the dynamic clamping member being movable from a retracted position to an advanced position to eject the plurality of fasteners from the cartridge assembly; and

a drive member being operably connected to the clamp member and the dynamic clamping member, the drive member being formed from a flexible cable and being movable to move the clamp member and the dynamic clamping member between their retracted and advanced positions.

2. A tool assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the drive member includes a coaxial drive cable, the coaxial drive cable including an outer sheath and a center rod.

3. A tool assembly according to Claim 2, wherein the center rod is movable in relation to the center rod.

4. A tool assembly according to Claim 2, wherein the center rod is axially movable with respect to the outer sheath.

5. A tool assembly according to Claim 2, wherein the center rod is rotatable in relation to the outer sheath.
6. A tool assembly according to any of Claims 2-5, wherein the outer sheath is operably connected to the clamp member.
7. A tool assembly according to any of Claims 2-6, wherein the center rod is operably connected to the dynamic clamping member.
8. A tool assembly according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the tool assembly is pivotally secured to a body portion.
9. A tool assembly according to Claim 8, wherein the tool assembly is operably connected to a collar member and the collar member is pivotally secured to the body portion.
10. A tool assembly stapler according to Claim 9, wherein the tool assembly is rotatably mounted to the collar member.
11. A tool assembly according to any of Claims 2-10, wherein the center rod of the coaxial cable is operably connected to the dynamic clamping member such that rotation of the center rod effects rotation of the dynamic clamping member which effects rotation of the tool assembly.
12. A tool assembly according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the dynamic clamping member includes a first flange portion positioned to engage a surface of the anvil and a second flange portion positioned to engage a surface of the cartridge assembly, the first and second flange portions being positioned to define a maximum tissue gap during movement of the dynamic clamping member from its retracted to its advanced position.

13. A tool assembly according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the clamp member is annular and when it is positioned about a proximal end of the anvil and of the cartridge assembly and is in its advanced position, the clamp member defines a maximum tissue gap at a proximal end of the tool assembly.
14. A tool assembly according to Claim 2, wherein the center rod is formed from wound flexible cable.
15. A tool assembly according to Claim 2, wherein the outer sheath is selected from the group consisting of steel mesh, plastic, nitinol, and Kevlar.
16. A tool assembly according to Claim 1, further including a knife blade associated with the dynamic clamping member.
17. A tool assembly according to Claim 14, wherein the knife blade is formed on the dynamic clamping member.
18. A tool assembly according to any of claims 2-17 wherein the tool assembly includes a drive collar and the outer sheath is attached to the drive collar.
19. A tool assembly for use with a surgical stapler comprising:
- an anvil;
 - a cartridge assembly having at least one staple, the cartridge assembly being movable in relation to the anvil between spaced and approximated positions;
 - a clamp member positioned adjacent a proximal end of the tool assembly, the clamp member being movable from a retracted position to an advanced position to move the anvil and the cartridge assembly to the approximated position; and
 - a dynamic clamping member positioned within the tool assembly and movable from a retracted position through the tool assembly to an advanced position to eject

staples from the cartridge assembly, the dynamic clamping member including an upper flange portion engaging a surface of the anvil and a lower flange portion engaging a surface of the cartridge assembly, at least one of the upper and lower flange portions having an arcuate cross-section along an axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of the cartridge assembly.

20. A tool assembly according to Claim 19, further including a knife blade associated with the dynamic clamping member.

21. A tool assembly according to Claim 19 or 20, wherein the knife blade is formed on a central body portion of the dynamic clamping member.

22. A tool assembly according to and of Claims 19-21, wherein the cartridge assembly includes a sled and a pusher associated with each as least one staple, the sled being driven by the closure member into engagement with the pusher to drive the pusher into engagement with the at least one staple to eject the staple from the cartridge assembly.

23. A tool assembly according to Claim 22, wherein the cartridge assembly includes a plurality of staples and pushers.

24. A tool assembly according to any of Claims 19-23, wherein the upper flange and lower flange are substantially vertically aligned.

25. A tool assembly according to any of Claims 20-24, wherein the knife blade is disposed on the central body portion between the upper and lower flanges.